

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7463
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7458

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, KE, IS
SUBJ: EXPANDING KENYAN-ISRAELI TIES

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE LACK OF FORMAL RELATIONS KENYAN-
ISRAELI TIES ON UPSWING AS MANIFEST BY EXCELLENT AND
HIGH-LEVEL KENYAN TURNOUT AT ISRAELI RECEPTION MAY 15.
END SUMMARY.

2. KENYAN ATTENDANCE AT ISRAELI 30TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
MAY 15 CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED CLOSE AND EXPANDING ISRAELI-
KENYAN TIES DESPITE LACK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SINCE
NOVEMBER 1973 WHEN GOK FOLLOWED OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
IN BREAKING WITH TEL AVIV.

3. DOCTOR ARYE ODED, ISRAELI PERMREP TO UNEP AND HEAD
ISRAELI INTERESTS SECTION IN DANISH EMBASSY (ODED MAINTAINS
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OFFICE IN HIS RESIDENCE) HOSTED RECEPTION WHICH ATTENDED BY
ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARLES NJONJO (ONE OF MOST POWERFUL
MINISTERS KNOWN FOR PRO-ISRAELI SENTIMENTS), MINISTER OF
TOURISM AND WILDLIFE MATTHEW OGUTU (WHO RESPONDED TO ODED'S
TOAST), MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PERMSEC JEREMIAH KIEREINI (MINISTER
IN ALL BUT NAME), AND JAMES KANYOTU, DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
IN SPECIAL BRANCH. MANY OTHER KENYANS PRESENT AND TURNOUT WAS

EXCEPTIONAL BY KENYAN STANDARDS.

4. ISRAELI COMMUNITY OF SOME 50 PERSONS ALSO ATTENDED, MANY FROM ZEVET CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING COMPANY WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES TO KENYAN MILITARY AND IS PRESENTLY FINISHING WORK ON EXTENSION OF RUNWAY AT NANYUKI AIR STATION FOR F-5 AIRCRAFT. SEVERAL ISRAELIS CLAIM TO BE IN IMPORT-EXPORT BUSINESS MUCH OF WHICH SEEMS CONCENTRATED ON FERTILIZERS AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

5. ODED IS SEASONED AFRICAN HAND WHO HAD POSTING IN UGANDA, ACTED BRIEFLY AS CHARGE IN MALAWI AND HAS WORKED IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE. HE IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON LOCAL SCENE, OBVIOUSLY UTILIZING ISRAELI COMMUNITY, SOME OF WHICH APPEAR WELL PLUGGED INTO MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL CIRCLES. ODED MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH SPECIAL BRANCH AND IS CLOSE TO GSU (MILITARY POLICE) CHIEF BENJAMIN GETHI WHO GOI HAS HELPED TRAIN.

6. ISRAELI-KENYAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP EXPANDING, WITH RECENT DEPARTURE FOR ISRAEL OF 95 KAF ENLISTED EMN TO BE TRAINED IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE. GROUP WAS ACCOMPANIED TO ISRAEL BY COMMANDER OF KAF, COL DEDAN GICHURU. ALSO, GOK HAS PURCHASED GABRIEL MISSILE SYSTEM FOR PATROL CRAFT AND HAS BEEN BUYING ISRAELI AMMUNITION FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF GUNS IN ITS ARSENAL.
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7. ODED CONFIDED THAT GOK HAS BEGUN TO REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND THAT GOI WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE.

8. COMMENT: IT OBVIOUS THAT ISRAEL AND KENYA HAVE MAINTAINED SOLID RELATIONSHIP WHICH THEY DEEM MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS. LACK OF FORMAL RELATIONS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INHIBITING FACTOR. ISRAELI REP HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED USEFUL LINKS WITH KEN KENYANS. OFFHAND COMMENTS OF SEVERAL KENYAN MILITARY OFFICERS SHOW THEM TO HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR ISRAELI MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. BY LOW KEY AND DISCRETE RESPONSIVENESS TO KENYAN REQUESTS, GOI SEEMS TO HAVE INGRATIATED ITSELF WITH GOK WHICH VIEWS ISRAEL AS MODEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MILITARY PROWESS. WHILE GOK NOT EXPECTED TO BREAK AFRICAN RANKS AND RESTORE FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WE EXPECT CURRENT RELATIONSHIP TO EXPAND FURTHER. ON OTHER HAND, LACK OF FORMAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL PERMITS GOK TO PURSUE POLICY OF EXPANDED RELATIONS WITH ARABS, ALTHOUGH KENYAN HOPE FOR ARAB LARGESS HAS NEVER MATERIALIZED AND COMMERCIAL BENEFITS HAVE TO DATE REMAINED VERY LIMITED.
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